compound. Hence no enquiry was considered necessary. The uranium compound produced by the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. is accounted for accurately and stored safely according to the procedures prescrirbed by the Department of Atomic Energy and in operation for long.

(c) Adequate security arrangements through the deployment of the Central Industrial Security Force exist in the operational areas of UCIL.

Percentage of women in All-India Services

*434. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to fix 33 percent quota for women in All-India Services;

(b) what is the present percentage of women in the IAS and IPS; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to increase the percentage of women in All-India Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The present percentage of women in IAS is 10.68 and in IPS is 3.11.

(c) Recruitment policies do not discriminate against women. There is a constant endeavour to ensure that service conditions are not against the interests of women.

Pakistan's Plan of Nuclear Strike

*435. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 29th June, 1998 quoting a Pakistani defected weapons scientist disclosing Pakistan's plan of first Nuclear strike on the country; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken note of this report. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Structural overhauling of Planning Commission

*436. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for a complete structural overhauling of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the basic idea behind this restructuring; and

(c) how far this is going to improve the functioning of the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) It is proposed to bring in functional changes in the working of the Planning Commission in the context of implementation of the Economic Reforms so that the Commission could concentrate more on new emerging areas/trends.

Claims made by Nepal in Kalapani

*437. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Nepal has claimed a 35 square km of area in Kalapani sector on

Indo-Nepal-Tibet border as Lipulekh pass being entry point into China from India;

(b) what steps have been taken at diplomatic and political level to resolve this dispute and whether there are any other such claims made by Nepal in the recent past; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Nepalese claim is not linked to the Lipulekh pass being the entry point into China, but on account of a difference in perception of the boundary alignment in the western sector of the India-Nepal border, where the Kalapani area is located.

(b) and (c) During the visit of Prime Minister of Nepal in June 1997, both Governments decided to refer the matter to the India-Nepal Joint Working Group (JWG), constituted by the Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee, to examine relevant facts relating to the demarcation of the boundary alignment in the western sector, including the kalapani area, and to propose, if necessary, further measures in this regard. Two meetings of the JWG have taken place and a third meeting is likely to take place shortly. While there is no other such claim made by Nepal in the recent past, cases of local encroachments along the border do exist. These include Narasahi-Susta in Bihar and the Mechi sector in West Bengal. Such cases are examined by the Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee (JTLC) constituted in 1981 to coordinate work relating to inspection/restoration of missing/damaged boundary pillars and recording of encroachments.

IAEA Stand on Disarmament

*438. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) backs India's disarmament stand;

(b) if so, the details of their plea; and

(c) the measures taken to further clarify India's view point in regard to nuclear tests carried out and the number of times discussed in IAEA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) At the instance of Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand, the 35-member Board of Governors of the IAEA at its meeting in Vienna from June 8-12, 1998, inserted an additional item on "Nuclear Testing" on its agenda. The summary adopted by the Chairman of the Board of Governors at the conclusion of the debate included a call on the Nuclear Weapon States to redouble their efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate their nuclear weapons in accordance with Article VI of the NPT and to enter into negotiations in good faith to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This is in line with India's consistent position on universal nuclear disarmament.

The Indian statement clarifying our viewpoint quoted extensively from Prime Minister's address in Parliament on 27th May, 1998. The statement also referred to the further steps taken by India towards the dejure formalisation of a moratorium, a "no-first-use" agreement, bilaterally or multilaterally, willingness to commence negotiations on FMCT and India's existing stringent export control policy. The statement added that no commitment or treaty with the IAEA or other international body had been violated and pointed to the deteriorating peace and security situation in our region. The fact that our concerns were not limited to South Asia was emphasised and our strong indigenous scientific and technological base and self reliance in nuclear science and technology was highlighted. Our commitment to the global elimination of nuclear weapons within a definite time frame was reiterated.